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A New Edition.

THE

PRINCE'S RIGHT

TO THE

ROYAL DIADEM,

DEFENDED:

BEING

An ANSWER

TO

The Rev. Mr. JACKSON's *Serious Address*

TO THE

QUEEN, PRINCE OF WALES,

AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

BY

A GENTLEMAN OF LINCOLN'S-INN.

“ De l'insecte a l'homme l'on doit toujours connoitre que le soin de soi même
“ est l'instinct de chaque etre.”

L O N D O N:

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R O Y A L D I A D E M , D e f e n d e d .

DEATH, as defined by Physicians, is no more than a cessation of the vital functions; nor do I see wherefore it should be so awful as you seem to represent. Altho' we are convinced of the comforts afforded us by our state in this life, it were a strange argument to infer from such a proposition, that a future state should render us less happy. We should not consider our dissolution as a punishment inflicted upon us, but as an alteration consonant with our nature, and agreeable to the divine will, and consequently in-

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tended for our benefit, and not for our misery. The highest contemplation of man, and his greatest satisfaction, must be, the absolute knowledge of the existence of a Great and Supreme Being, whose universal kindness is extended even unto the smallest animal :

Who sees, with equal eye, as God of all,
A hero perish, or a sparrow fall.

POPE.

Whatever it may please his divine will to decree, it is the duty of man, in all cases, implicitly to submit to. To push the argument further, would be the highest presumption. Suffice it to say, that the Almighty knowing best what is fittest to our natures, *aut transport aut finit* we should be satisfied. If, then, we are under the direction of the same Almighty Being in future, as we are at present, we can have no good cause

cause to repine at that decree, which infinite Wisdom points out. All things human must have an end:

Nay, e'en the great globe itself,
And all which it inherit, shall dissolve.

SHAKESPEAR.

I presume the conscience which never feels the stings of guilt, till death begins to deprive it of sensibility, is like pity without relief; and, if I may use the expression, 'tis a species of inanimate passion; for, tho' a weakness of mind may often disclose those things which health and vigour withstands, yet the same pangs which are the offspring of guilt, never fail, at every solitary moment, to haunt the breast of the culprit, whether well in health, or altogether to discharge the debt which nature exacts from all.

Exempla

Exempla quodcunque malo committitur,
 Ipfi displicet auctori; quod si
 Judice; nemo nescens absolvetur.

JUVENAL.

Where one man is guilty of an act of oppression over another, the perturbation that will disturb his mind on the occasion, will not wait till the hour of his dissolution, to destroy those comforts, which he might otherwise have enjoyed. I am not insensible, that making the Devil debtor, is an argument that prevails but too common; but, had mankind but the foresight to know that the Almighty has enjoined us nothing what it is not our interest to perform, we should then know better than to give credit to that which in the end must prove our utter destruction. It is true, there are such tales in existence, of people who are sensible, even to the very last; but these are certainly exceptions to the general rule; for when
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the corporal faculties are almost wholly exhausted, 'tis strange that the mental ones should shine in their purest brilliancy. Such an argument is contrary to every principle of physical experiment; for, before the body has arrived to its state of maturity, the mind is never arrived to its state of perfection: And, when corporal strength begins to decay, and perhaps innumerable diseases entail upon us the infirmities of nature, the temper is almost sure to grow captious, the desires imperious, and the intellect, like a plant nipp'd by the frost, degenerates on account of the weakness which exhausted nature has brought upon it.

“ How much (say you) does the prospect bright-
 “ en to our imagination, when we see the good and
 “ provident man struggling in the hour of dissolu-
 “ tion!”—Do you then make the imagination the basis
 of all sublunary knowledge, which, just on the eve of
 death, is pushed to its greatest extent? Had the

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wisdom of our most gracious Sovereign been founded on no other basis, his subjects could never have enjoyed that tranquil and serene happiness which you seem to point out they now possess. But men are more apt to imagine what may be, than to observe what is. It strikes me with horror, when I hear talk of the imagination being placed, as it were, in direct opposition to the understanding; as if our senses were given us to incite our intellect, instead of to cultivate it, by experiment and observation. I lament as much as you, with all my fellow countrymen, the present unhappy situation of our most gracious Monarch, and the more so when *I consider that a dutiful people seem to be on the eve of losing that fund of experimental knowledge, and true philosophy, that our Sovereign possessed, before his present melancholy indisposition.*

But to return to the good and provident man, whom you state “ much engaged with respect to the change,
 “ and

“ and place of his existence; yet, having the most
 “ perfect sense of *omniscient humanity*, he is happy
 “ in the prospect of an unrivalled and interminate
 “ reward.” I would fain comment upon the term *omni-*
scient humanity; but there is something so very shocking
 even in the sound of it, that it seems almost too pre-
 sumptuous to repeat. In many parts of your Address,
 you have talked something like a priest; but, in no
 part of it, have you addressed yourself to the public
 any thing like a philosopher. Were man omniscient,
 he would then resist the Divine Will; an idea too im-
 pious to be dwelt upon for a moment.—Well may you
 talk of the imagination, which, doubtless, may be
 pushed to a wonderful degree; but, after all, if the
 senses are absent, the result terminates in the most
 vague uncertainty. There’s no doubt but man is
 the wisest of all human beings; which, consider’d,
 should excite our minds to the greatest gratitude and
 veneration to that Great and adorable Being, the
 Divine Creator of all things.

That

That first, great cause, least understood,
 Who all our sense confin'd,
 To know but this, that he is God;
 And that ourselves are blind.

P O P E.

You then proceed, by saying that “ there are some
 “ zealous advocates for annihilation; but this (say
 “ you) is the subtle comfort of the infamous and de-
 “ praved—other atheists say, why do you argue on the
 “ existence of a Deity? ” Now, sir, your degree as a
 master of arts precludes me from claiming that su-
 periority in theological matters, which it is your parti-
 cular province to possess; but, believe me, if I may
 be allowed to give my humble opinion, you have paid
 the worst compliment, where the greatest truth was
 due; by ascribing omniscience to humanity, and thereby
 equallizing the Creature with the Creator; which puts
 me in mind of that sycophant, in the court *Alexander*
 the great, who wished that divine honours should be
 paid

paid to his Royal Master. But not satisfied with that, your presumption carries you still further; for you say, “ He that has the most humble conception “ of his own actions, and yet those actions approach “ nearest of all to the Godhead, actually ‘grasps the “ kingdom of everlasting life. ” I’ll pass over the avaricious idea of grasping, and will just attempt to shew how contrary your argument is to true philosophy. I shall just observe, that our conceptions must needs be the humbler, as our actions are the meaner; for great and mighty achievements require a quick conception, and bright imagination. When I speak here of the imagination, I mean to place it in that situation amidst human things, that all-bountiful Providence allotted it should supply; that it might be exerted for our advantage, and not to our prejudice; and that the result of that brisk imagination should be the proper manner of putting in action the engines committed to our direction. Such, most likely, then was the

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lively thought which induced you, upon the present melancholy occasion, to attempt to make the world believe, that no pure virtue could exist, but in the present Administration; who have risen our credit throughout all Europe; who are reducing the National Debt, by paying off one whole Million of Funded Property every year—by borrowing two on Exchequer Bills. We might as well return our thanks to the Minister for the plentiful harvest, or the fertile crop of apples that the season has produced, as to thank him for the increase of the Revenue, at a time when the blessings of peace have increased the trade of the whole Empire. Such immaculate virtue as this, upon the present occasion too, was a suitable topic for the discussion of a Master of Arts.

Ars dux certior, quam natura.

QUINTILLIAN.

Then

Then, in repeating his Majesty's calamitous situation, you proceed with---“ No comfort presents itself ; no
 “ alleviation of our distress is at hand ; we have an
 “ unbeaten track before us, without a glimmering lamp,
 “ or tottering guide, to lead the way ! Despondence,
 “ almost despair, naturally arises from our situation ;
 “ we are deprived, in the first sense, of the assistance
 “ of a King, without the prospect of a successor : In
 “ fact, a perfect vacuum presents itself to our view.”
 During this rhapsody, you must surely have been in
 a trance ; for you have fairly lost thought of our un-
 happy Sovereign's most illustrious progeny, *without the*
prospect of a successor ! Why, surely, has not the King
 got twelve children ; and, above all, an heir, that, I
 may safely say, is one of the wisest and ablest, if not the
 most able of any prince in Europe. Give me leave,
 sir, to defend the conduct of his *Royal Highness the*
Prince of Wales, whose past actions you seem to have
 painted in such dismal colours, by first making al-
 lowance

lowance for the greatness of his station; and then you
 proceed to say, " That for the first three or four
 " years after he was his own master, he led to his
 " family and to his friends a distressing life of de-
 " debauchery; the dupe of the most thoughtless, and
 " the companion of the most abandoned." This,
 sir, is the statement of a case, that you have not ad-
 duced a single proof to establish. Who were these
 abandoned and thoughtless companions, then? Why,
 the present Opposition; men famous for their abilities
 and integrity throughout the whole world; whose
 virtues you yourself express a reverence for: " You
 " admire their abilities, yet you cannot help think-
 " ing, that a Change of Administration, in conse-
 " quence of the Prince being Regent, would be a
 " most unfortunate and destructive measure to this
 " country. It is true (say you) beyond disputation,
 " that we have thriven uncommonly within these
 " few years; our commerce, our respectability, have
 encreased

“ encreased wonderfully ; in fact, from being an op-
 “ pressed, sinking State, we are again rising to ho-
 “ nour and affluence. How great, then, must be
 “ the evil, the necessary evil attending the Change
 “ of Ministers ! In the first place, an enormous ex-
 “ penditure of the public money, to assemble a Par-
 “ liament compatible with the measures of the men
 “ then in power, at least One Million ! notwithstand-
 “ ing the further charges of, &c. &c. Let the Prince
 “ only, then, consider the injurious consequences
 “ arising from the adoption of a plan, which, how-
 “ ever consonant to our own inclinations, ought to
 “ be considered, and the alloy balanced against the
 “ advantages, (if any) before it is adopted.”

Let us now examine the futility of your argument.
 In the first place, then, your objection to the Prince
 being Regent, arises from a fear that he would dis-
 place the present Administration, and that would be

a destructive measure to this country. Pray, sir, is the Administration hereditary in the families who are at present in office? Or is it reasonable that the Prince should be denied the privilege of appointing such Ministers as seem to him most capable of transacting the public business? Is it because his Royal Highness is a true Patriot, that you wish to deprive him of the powers with which the Constitution has armed the Regal Office? Or, do you prefer a Regency, because that you think the prerogative of the Crown to be too great, and therefore you would wish that prerogative perhaps to reside in a subject? Were you a little better versed in the knowledge of the Constitution, you would then know, that the executive Power cannot be so safely lodged in any of the three branches of the Legislature, as in the Crown: You'll say, perhaps, it resides still in the Crown, if the Powers of the Crown are committed to a Regency; but, as a Majority of that Regency must needs consist
of

of Members of both Houses of Parliament, so one Branch of the Legislature, if not totally destroyed, must, at least, be evidently weakened. In short, the Powers which should reside in one Great Breast, and which can only be animated, but for the good of the people, would be severed in many parts, to be divided among several; consequently, that very Branch in which ought to consist the greatest unanimity, would, perhaps, be the most divided. As to its costing a million of money to elect a Parliament compatible with the ideas of the present Opposition, to say nothing of the unconstitutional doctrine which your argument tends to establish, is not a matter exactly clear to me; for, whether there is a Change in Administration, or no, there must still be a Dissolution of Parliament the year after next, according to the common course of things; when I rather think it will cost a million of money to return a House of Commons that will keep in office the men now in power. Therefore, so far
form

from the Public Money being squandered away, I rather think a Change would be an act of the greatest prudence and œconomy. Nay, like your good friend the Minister, you admire œconomy so much, it might please your ideas to establish a long Parliament at once; and, as you were just now at a loss for a precedent in the present case, you could not be too feeble; or else vote the Opposition useless, and establish a Rump.

I beg pardon for making a retrograde motion; but I must for a moment go back to page nine, in your pamphlet, where you at once take upon yourself to point out to the public what you think would be the most rational means to pursue; and yet, in another part you say, there's no precedent to go by; as such, you have assumed to form one. Now mark your words. “ You conceive, from the character and conduct of the present Administration, from the indisputable, nay, convincing proof of their desire to
“ promote

“ promote the happiness of the nation, by an unwea-
 “ ried application, and uncommon sollicitude for
 “ the augmentation of our Commerce, and conse-
 “ quently Resources, the people may, with the ful-
 “ lest assurance of their integrity, *resign the adjustment*
 “ *of this lamentable catastrophe, to the wisdom of his*
 “ *Majesty's once Counsellors.*” By which latter part
 of your opinion, and good advice, you would at once
 annihilate both Houses of Parliament, by not asking
 them a single question on the present alarming occa-
 sion ; *but you would refer to his Majesty's once Counsel-*
 lers, the adjustment of a matter, that by no means
 appertains to them. So that, in short, by some of
 your arguments, it appears that you would wish to
 abolish, at least, one of the Estates of Government ;
 by others you would annihilate two ; and, were you
 to write another pamphlet, equally meritorious, you

would, perhaps, find out some arguments for an occasional abolition of all three.

However, so strangely have you laid out your ideas, that it is a difficult matter to collect your meaning ; but, from the best construction that I am able to form, the whole tenor of your discourse seems (page 19) “ earnestly to recommend to the Prince, if he either
“ regards popular applause or success in his measures,
“ to keep upon the best terms with the men now in
“ power.” I leave, therefore, to the public to judge, where the main stress of your argument lies, and what the main intention of your Pamphlet was, “ *To
“ continue the Men now in Power.*”

Then, by way of a varnish to the whole, you add a few words, *opportune*, to the public in a body, by
flating

stating, that we ought to consider the Prince of Wales as the *Primum Mobile* of our support; *in which you and I perfectly agree; for virtue never shines so brilliant, as it does in a Patriot Prince*; and then, by way of giving your few opportune words their last farewell, you conclude, like a charity sermon, by praying a ready and plentiful pecuniary supply. It is true, you allow that we are already very heavily laden, but that a very small addition to the load may under an Administration of ability and under commands of resolution, be a prelude to a long and advantageous peace.

Now, sir, do you mean by a small addition to the load, *a further additional Window Tax, or another impartial impost of an additional Shop Tax*. If such is the meaning of addition in small quantities, good Lord deliver us from such advisers!

That

That our most Gracious Sovereign may regain, and long possess his former peace of mind, are the prayers of all good subjects; but, if it please Almighty God to continue him in his present situation, or even totally to remove him from this life, may he graciously grant, in his infinite wisdom, that his Successor may ever be endued with that integrity and uprightness becoming so great a Prince; and that his Highness may have every opportunity of displaying, for the good of his people, those great abilities with which nature has most bountifully endowed him, is the earnest prayer of all true Patriots!

F I N I S.

P O S T S C R I P T.

AS to the part you address to the Queen, I am at a loss to know what to make of it. You say, "To afford consolation to the afflicted, requires a heart of the purest composition;" of such materials I suppose yours is composed; or, at least, you fancied that to be the case, or you would never have attempted to address her Majesty upon a subject that you must needs know, from her situation in life, she must be a better judge of than yourself.

If I may presume to give my opinion upon your Pamphlet I think I may safely say, that you appear to me to be less versed in constitutional knowledge than any other writer could possibly have been, who had attempted to handle the same subject. I beg pardon for being guilty of a repetition, in mentioning one of your ideas a second time; but your conception
" of the character and conduct of the present Administration,
" and to advise the Prince to keep them in, if he means to court
" Popularity,

“ popularity, or consider the success of his measures,” is, in a manner, daring him to do otherwise ; and, consequently, erecting an authority above the Regal Power : In short, it is giving a greater share of power to one man, than any subject can constitutionally enjoy. It would be erecting a species of usurpation hitherto unknown in this kingdom. I think if ever an act was done without a precedent, this would be one.

Whatever measures may be taken by Parliament at their next meeting, such measures will, no doubt, be agreeable to the Constitution. “ As to sustain, repair, and beautify this “ noble Pile, (says the learned Judge Blackstone) is a charge “ entrusted principally to the Nobility, and such Gentlemen “ as are delegated by their Country to Parliament, the protection of the *Liberty of Britain* is a duty which they owe to “ themselves; who enjoy it ; to their ancestors, who transmitted it down ; and to their posterity, who will claim at “ their hands, this, the best birth-right, and noblest inheritance of mankind.”

Judge, therefore, how likely it will be that the Lords and Commons will adopt any plan that will create a fourth estate ;
which

which they must do, if they appoint any one Regent but the Prince.

If, by the visitation of Almighty God, thro' some *natural* cause, our Sovereign is unfortunately bereft of his reason, is that an argument wherefore a Council or Regency of any kind should controul his Son? For, was such a one to be appointed, one might be led to imagine that the Son was bereft of his reason as well as his Father. Nor, in fact, would such a scheme ever enter into the mind of any Minister, except he meant at once to make a perpetuity of his station, and render himself as well independant of the Legislature, as of the Executive Power; by creating in himself a species of *Pouvoir Nouveau*, which might well be termed the *Authoritative*.

The Right of the Prince to govern as sole Regent, results as necessarily, as his Inheritance to the full Regal Honours, on the Sovereign's absolute demise.

“ Laying aside, (say you) however, the illegality of the most
 “ cautious and wisest proceedings; supposing an Act to pass
 “ both Houses, and supposing it is consider'd as a law,
 “ from

“ from the esteem Administration is in, when, in truth and in fact, it is invalid, consequently no law.”

Now, sir, supposing Parliament were to pass such an Act, the esteem that Administration is in, would neither make it more nor less valid ; nor could its wanting the Royal Assent in the present circumstances, make it invalid ; for, from his Majesty's present unhappy situation, one branch of the Legislature being disabled, any Act passed by the other two, must needs be considered as law.

One branch of the Legislature being, therefore, as it were, become lapsed, Government is, no doubt, in a mutilated state ; to repair which, the first business of Parliament must be the *nominating*, or, I should rather say, *confirming* the Succession to the executive branch. A question then arises, namely, what species of Succession would it be prudent to nominate?--- Were they to nominate Delegates from the Lower House, the Executive Power would become vested in the Commons : were they to nominate a Committee of the Nobility, the Executive Power would become vested in the Lords : hence, either way, the balance of power between those two Branches of the Legislature must be totally destroyed ; an Aristocracy or a Democracy

mocracy must needs ensue. Or, was the Executive Power lodged in the hands of a certain number of Members of each House, then the third Estate in the Legislature would be annihilated. And, was it lodged in the hands of the principal Ministers of State, that might be erecting a Council without a suitable President to controul it. In short, it would be placing in the hands of a few subjects that power, which none but a Prince ought to enjoy.

Besides, from the same rule that Parliament are understood to be the guardians of the people's liberty, they are confessedly the guardians of the Succession to the Throne. The Prince of Wales, as Heir Apparent, has therefore a right to look to them for that protection, which it is the sincere wish of every *Patriotic Breast* that he may find, particularly amidst the Representatives of the People.

You seem to start as a mighty obstacle, that the Prince "should have seen the absurdities, inconsistencies, or errors of one set of men, before he is acquainted with the labyrinths of public or official employment." If you mean by this, that he is unacquainted with the system of intrigue and secret influence, which have so eminently distinguished the present Administration

Administration, I most readily agree with you. But, that it is possible for him to be ignorant of their ostensible measures or the common routine of office, no man in his senses, I think, will venture to affirm.

Ergo, if such virtues as these are sufficient to recommend them to the Prince's favour, I will never undertake to argue another point *that may respect their wise Administration*. If the oppression of all the shopkeepers throughout the whole kingdom, but most particularly those in LONDON and WESTMINSTER, and the darkening the houses of the inhabitants of every county in the kingdom; And being deaf to the prayers and intreaties of his Majesty's faithful subjects from all quarters of the nation, can be stiled integrity, then is our present young Pilot possessed of his abundant share.

The time will, however, shortly come, when the wisdom of the Legislature will determine on such measures as will be proper to adopt, without consulting "THEODORE JACKSON, A. M." And, when the Prince will be declared Guardian of these Realms, which at some future period, when it may please Omnipotent Providence to call our beloved Sovereign, *he will be proclaimed King of—*

